

GWU Planning to Set Up Sino-Soviet Institute

By Rasa Gustaitis
George Washington University is setting up a graduate institute for Sino-Soviet studies to conduct research on the Communist bloc and train specialists for policy-making, scholarship and teaching.

Kurt London, a foreign policy expert with experience in government and teaching, has been named to head the new study center. It is expected to get underway in the fall.

In the beginning it will be a "shoestring operation," London said. But eventually, "we hope to train an elite Sino-Soviet specialist," conversant in both Russian and Chinese.

The institute will combine study of international communism, the Soviet Union and China. Later it may expand to include the satellite nations.

"This will not be another area study center," London stressed. The approach will be directed toward a political and economic bloc rather than toward geographical areas or specific nations. He said he

did not know another institution in this country which had developed such a program, although the University of Washington was trying to relate its Chinese and Russian studies.

"If I can't make it a first-class institute I'll quit. It has to be, because it's in the Nation's Capital and there is no reason why it shouldn't be," London said.

The permanent faculty will be drawn mainly from the University staff, London said. But top men will also be brought as visiting professors. They will be offered "time to think, read and write," and

will be asked to give only one third of their time to teaching.

Berlin-born London, who has wide international contacts, said the opportunity to be in Washington and have time for independent work has already brought interest from internationally known scholars.

There will be nothing rigid about the new program, he said. Visiting professors will not be required to stay a full semester if they cannot do so. Both part-time and full-time students will be accepted.

"We want the Institute to be a vessel for all talents, an outgoing program rather than one that is locked within the walls of a university," London said.